

CONGRESSWOMAN

Carolyn McCarthy

Environment Accomplishments - 107th Congress

The protection of the air we breathe, the lands we use, and the water we drink, should be goals that we all share. Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy is working hard to strengthen public health standards and maintain the health of our national forests and monuments.

PROTECTING LONG ISLAND

- √ Knowing that pollution runoff is the largest source of water pollution and concerned about the number beach closings and advisories at U.S. beaches, Congresswoman McCarthy supports funding for pollution runoff control programs.
- √ Congresswoman McCarthy advocates for the National Estuary Program, which provides grants to protect nationally significant estuaries, like Long Island Sound, that are threatened by pollution or development.
- √ A strong supporter of the New York Sea Grant College Program and its combination of university, government, business and industry expertise to address coastal and Great Lakes needs, the Congresswoman backs legislation to reauthorize this critical program.

OUR CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- √ In November of 2001, a parent called the Nassau County Department of Health regarding the air quality at the Tutor Time Center in Mineola, which was located adjacent to Jackson Steel, a Superfund site.
- √ As soon as she was made aware of this problem, Congresswoman McCarthy began what has developed into a near-daily dialogue with officials of EPA and the Nassau County Department of Health, first to understand the problem, and second, to determine what was being done to eliminate it.
- √ In addition to demanding results to air and groundwater testing, Congresswoman McCarthy was instrumental in the removal of drums located on the Jackson Steel property that contained volatile organic compounds. According to the EPA's own documents these barrels were dangerous and very likely explosive.

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy continues to respond and answer her constituents' requests for help. She monitors this situation on a daily basis to make sure that the health and safety of all children is the number one consideration.

PRESERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

- ✓ The Congresswoman was a strong supporter of the Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act, which was signed into law on January 11, 2002, by the President. It will promote the cleanup and reuse of old industrial sites known as brown fields by providing financial assistance for revitalization efforts, encouraging economic growth, and enhancing state response programs.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy is committed to ensuring that the Superfund program runs efficiently and effectively and has funding to clean up hazardous waste sites.

PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TREASURES

- ✓ Popular with the American public, national monuments protect a diverse array of unique and fragile cultural, historic, archeological, biological and scenic areas. Congresswoman McCarthy voted for an amendment, now a law, which prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from permitting mining in any national monument.

Protect Alaska's Arctic Refuge—Committed to protecting the unique natural splendor of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for future generations, Congresswoman McCarthy voted to maintain the current prohibition on oil development in the Arctic refuge. She will continue to do so in the future.

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy has advocated for increased support for the National Estuary Program, which provides grants to protect nationally significant estuaries that are threatened by pollution or development.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy supports legislation designating certain federal lands as permanent wilderness, protecting some of the nation's most spectacular rivers, rock-scapes and rare and fragile lands. Permanent wilderness status allows land to remain in a natural state and protected from such things as mining, road and dam construction and off-road vehicle use.

PROTECTING OUR AIR AND WATER

- ✓ Concerned about ongoing oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes, which contain 20 percent of the world's fresh water supply and supply drinking water to eight states, Congresswoman McCarthy and her colleagues succeeded in placing a two-year moratorium on new oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes.

- √ Farming and ranching operations occupy more than half the land in the 48 contiguous United States. Congresswoman McCarthy has supported numerous efforts to increase funding for conservation incentive programs that encourage agricultural landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland, and forested lands; improve water quality; protect public health; and protect and enhance wildlife habitats.
- √ The Congresswoman voted to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from delaying or weakening the implementation of stricter standards regulating the allowable levels of arsenic in drinking water. Several months following the vote, EPA Administrator Whitman announced she would uphold the new standard. Congresswoman McCarthy also supports legislation that codifies the rule establishing a maximum contaminant level for arsenic.

New York City's watershed is vital to the drinking water supply for millions of New Yorkers. Congresswoman McCarthy has helped to obtain much needed funding for the New York City Watershed Agreement, which is a comprehensive and unique agreement between the State of New York, the City of New York, the federal government, environmental groups and local governments.

- √ Congresswoman McCarthy understands that the Environmental Protection Agency's effectiveness in safeguarding the environment and protecting the American public depends on its ability to enforce laws to reduce ground, air, and water pollution. She has opposed efforts to cut funding for the EPA's enforcement programs. Further, she has supported legislation which would enhance the EPA's services to small communities attempting to comply with environmental regulations.

CONSERVING ENERGY

- √ Believing that the U.S. could substantially reduce the country's dependence on oil and its carbon dioxide emissions by raising the vehicle mileage-per-gallon for new cars and light trucks, the Congresswoman voted to increase fuel efficiency.
- √ To increase the energy efficiency of dwellings occupied by low-income persons and reduce their energy consumption and lower their fuel bills Congresswoman McCarthy supports increased funding for weatherization programs.
- √ To amend the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions from electric powerplants, with specified requirements for modified sources.
- √ To make available monies received from onshore Federal oil and gas development to the low-income home energy assistance program..